



CALL TO DUTY

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION HOT TOPICS

AS OF: 13 APRIL 2007

Army Extends Active-duty Units in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan by 90 days

Theme:

The Army exists to field forces for victory. We know this hard decision asks even more from you and your family, but it is essential to our success. You are the strength of our Nation. As Soldiers, we will lead the Nation to victory over this enemy.

Key Messages:

All active-component units currently serving a one-year tour in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, or the Horn of Africa will be extended by 90 days to complete a 15-month "boots on the ground" tour in those countries

- All units scheduled to deploy from this point forward also will plan for a 15-month deployment.
- This change in deployment duration is part of the Army's overall plan to sustain capability within the theater, retain flexibility for the commander on the ground, and improve predictability for Soldiers and families.
- The Army's immediate goal is a one-year 'dwell time' at home for redeploying Soldiers to reintegrate with their families. This one year will provide unit commanders with a predictable window of time where they can restore their units – train, maintain, and reset equipment – to required levels of readiness, as well as restoring quality of life for Soldiers and families.
- The one-year dwell time will be instrumental in establishing predictability; dwell time is just as significant as "boots on the ground" time.
- This change in tour-length does not affect the Reserve Component forces – U.S. Army National Guard and Army Reserve -- which will continue to adhere to the current 12-month mobilization policy that took effect in January 2007.
- Soldiers supporting the Worldwide Individual Augmentee System (WIAS) are not affected by this announcement.
- Soldiers will receive Assignment Incentive Pay for time spent beyond the scheduled one-year deployment.
- The Army remains steadfastly committed to taking care of the Soldier, the Army's centerpiece, and their families. Therefore, the Army is dispatching Family support assistance teams to Washington, and Germany to assist the first of the affected units scheduled to return in June 2007.
- These support teams will work with the already existing Family support networks for both the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Wash. and the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team from Schweinfurt, Germany.
- Commanders of the remaining extended units will work with their rear detachment commanders to ensure their Family support networks are provided updated information and that all of the Family Member's questions and concerns are answered.
- Faced with the increased probability of sending units to combat with less than 12 months dwell time and the possibility of numerous late-breaking unit extensions, and understanding that we are in a long and difficult struggle of uncertain duration that will require a steady deployment of ground forces to uncertain locations, we had to change.
- Deployments of 15 months with a minimum of 12 months for reset, retraining and recovery allow us to sustain a predictable flow of well-trained and well-equipped formations to theater commanders. This also allows us to provide a more predictable and dependable deployment schedule for Soldiers and families.
- Though there is nothing certain in war, this represents a solid commitment to 12 months of dwell time at home. This predictability is essential to the long term health of our Service.
- We made this difficult decision after careful thought, and we owe you an explanation. We wanted to tell you in advance, but events caused us to move faster than planned.
- We are profoundly grateful for your service, your many continued sacrifices and your deep commitment to accomplishing our shared mission during this time of danger and uncertainty.

